

SECRET

16 August 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing by AMBASSADOR/15 of Joseph Lesawyer

1. AMBASSADOR/15 has learned from Joseph Lesawyer that he and seven other individuals are going as a group on a visit to the USSR in September of this year. The group includes Mr. Lesawyer's wife, Mary, who sings with the New York City Center Opera Company; Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Shumeyko, who operate the KOMBARKHIM travel agency at 286 East 10th Street in New York (Mrs. Shumeyko is the former Yevdokymuk); Mr. Lesawyer's brother; and three other girls whose names A/15 did not remember. All eight individuals are of Ukrainian extraction, and they all speak the Ukrainian language in various degrees of proficiency.
2. This group of eight is traveling via the KLM Airlines, which airline has been trying to instigate among Ukrainian circles in the New York area an interest in group trips to the USSR. In this regard, Mrs. Shumeyko was given a complimentary trip via KLM to Moscow and Kiev early last spring.
3. Mr. Lesawyer told A/15 about the proposed trip and asked A/15 whether there might be anything of particular interest the A/1 organization would like him to look for, questions to ask Ukrainians or Russians with whom he might have occasion to speak, etc. A/15 told Mr. Lesawyer that he would be very happy to talk to him and brief him on realities in the USSR.
4. A Covert Security Approval (C-178905) was issued Joseph Lesawyer on 24 June 1959 to permit his use as administrator of a fund drive in New York City to benefit the A/1 Project ARGENTAMIC cover company in New York. [] (as []) had contact with Subject to discuss the fund drive. Subject was at that time made witting of Agency interest in the AMBASSADOR organization and was asked to sign a Secrecy Agreement.
5. Mr. Lesawyer is a former officer of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America, a former officer of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and an officer of the Ukrainian National Association. He is an American born citizen and a Reserve Officer in the U. S. Army. He continues to be active in and enjoys respect and a wide acquaintanceship in the Ukrainian community in the United States. Mr. Lesawyer is employed by a realty firm in New York City.

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